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# Nebraska Horse Trails Guide



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Nebraska has diverse terrain that provides scenic and interesting places to ride. Although 98% of the land in the state is privately owned, there are still many areas available for trail riders.

This brochure lists some of the areas that are open to the public in order to assist equestrian users in finding suitable sites within Nebraska. The areas listed are owned and operated by local communities, NRD's, the Federal Government, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. This guide not only outlines the areas that allow people to bring and ride their own horses, but lists the facilities that are available like camping and water for livestock.

A number of Wildlife Management Areas managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission also allows access on a limited basis. Please check with the area manager or the Main Office at (402) 471-0641 before you ride.

Always remember to protect our environment and public use of our activity. Leave only hoof prints and report any illegal activities.

## Trail Etiquette

1. When passing other trail users, always make sure there is plenty of room. Wait for a safe place to pass. Let others know that you wish to pass.
2. Respect other trail users' situations and be courteous.
3. Always obtain landowners permission before riding on private land.
4. Remain on the marked trails whenever possible.
5. Call ahead, conditions could be muddy.
6. Never ride away from a group until all riders are mounted and ready to ride.
7. Always leave gates as you found them.
8. Ride abreast or stay a full horse length behind the horse ahead of you.
9. Do not cut across switchbacks.
10. If you have a horse that kicks or is aggressive, tie a red ribbon on its tail.

## Trail Safety

1. Keep your horse under control and maintain a secure seat at all times. Expect the unexpected!
2. Be sure your equipment is in good repair and fits both you and your horse.
3. Always carry a pocketknife or multiuse tool. A pair of wire cutters is also a good idea. You also should carry rawhide strings for repairs and a basic first aid kit for you and your horse.
4. Always use the right hand trail on a divided trail.
5. Watch weather conditions, try to be off the trails before storms start.
6. Walk your horse going uphill or downhill and always on paved roads.
7. Allow a horse to pick its own way at a walk when riding rough ground, rocks, mud, or ice.
8. If stopped on a steep hill, turn your horse sideways, parallel with the hill when possible. When turning on a hill, turn the horse's head to the downhill side.
9. If stopped on a steep trail or edge of a drop off, face your horse out so it can see the drop off.
10. When crossing a creek, check for solid footing. Don't let your horse stand in the middle of the creek and drink, it may try to roll. If you want to water your horse, do it from the bank.



Information	Omaha Area					Lincoln / Southeast								Northeast & Central				West		Northern Panhandle			
	Walnut Creek Lake 96 & Schram Rd, Papillion	Cunningham Lake Park 86 & State St Omaha	Zorinsky Lake 168 & F Sts Omaha	Standing Bear Lake Omaha	NP Dodge Park I-680 & Pershing Omaha	Oak Creek Trail Valparaiso	MoPac Trail Lincoln	Wilderness Park Lincoln	Pioneer Park Lincoln	Branched Oak SRA 3 M W of Raymond	Indian Cave State Park Hwy 67 & S64E Shubert,	Pawnee SRA 3 M No, 2 M W of Emerald	Rock Creek Station SRA 6 M SE of Fairbury	Niobrara State Park Hwy 12 & 14 Niobrara	Willow Creek SRA 1 M W, ½ M So of Pierce	Maskenthine Lake 10 E of Norfolk	Cowboy Recreation & Nature Trail Hwy 275 & 20, Norfolk to Valentine	Lake McConaughy SRA North of Ogallala	Buffalo Bill Ranch North Platte	Fort Robinson State Park 3 miles west of Crawford	Halsey U.S. Forest Service Hwy 2, Halsey	Soldier Creek U.S. Forest Service 7 M No of Crawford	Pine Ridge National Forest 3 M W of Chardon
<i>Miles of trails</i>	3.5	6+	3+		4	12	25	8		3.6	12	6	5.5		12		117		1	20+	9	15	80
<i>Difficulty<sup>1</sup></i>	E	E	E	E	E,M	E	E	E	E	E	H	E	E,M,H	E	E	E	E	E	E	E,M,H	E,M,H	M,H	M,H
<i>Map available</i>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N		Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Open riding</i>	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Marked trails</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Overnight camping</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N 10	Y 2	Y 3	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Camping fees</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Supervisor on grounds</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
<i>Water</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y 4	N	N	Y	Y	Y 5	Y	Y	Y 6	Y	Y	N 10	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Other recreational activities available</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Corrals/hitching posts</i>	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N 10	N	N	Y 7	Y	Y	Y
<i>Picnic tables</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y 8	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N 10	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Camping pads</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N 9	Y	N 9	Y	Y	Y	N 10	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
<i>Electrical hookups</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N 9	Y	N 9	Y	Y	Y	N 10	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
<i>Firepit or rings</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N 10	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Toilets</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N 10	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<i>Showers</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N 9	N 9	Y	Y	N 9	Y	N 10	N	N	Y	N	N	N
<i>Dump station</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N 10	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
<i>Services close by (auto repair, food, etc)</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
<i>Special Notes</i>		Riding along fence lines and shoulders of hard surface trails.				Ride on north side of park.											Three segments completed.				Certified Weed Free Hay required. Handicap ramps at some trailheads.		

KEY

<sup>1</sup> E-easy, M-moderate, H-hard  
<sup>2</sup> Primitive camping with horses, modern facilities available in different area  
<sup>3</sup> RV camping only  
<sup>4</sup> Water available at Valparaiso trailhead  
<sup>5</sup> Water available for horses out of a water wagon during summer season. Water for people available at other sites in park.  
<sup>6</sup> Water available in park, not at horse camping site  
<sup>7</sup> Corrals (no charge) Stables (\$7/night)  
<sup>8</sup> Picnic tables available by contacting the caretaker  
<sup>9</sup> Not in corral area  
<sup>10</sup> Not on trail but at some communities along trail (see Cowboy trail brochure)

NOTES:

- Trails are natural surface (grass, dirt, or rock)
- Most agencies allow dogs on leashes.
- Camping amenities may not be right at horse camping sites, but available elsewhere at park.
- Park Permits required at all state parks.
- For further information visit [www.oudoornebraska.org](http://www.oudoornebraska.org), <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/parks/trails/horse.html> or call 402-471-5511
- For emergencies call 911.

LEAVE ONLY HOOF PRINTS!